

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [50] beginning on page 16 of the Application, as follows:

[50] Fig. 4 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a digital hybrid balance circuit 405 and subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC) 450, in accordance with the present invention. The digital hybrid balance circuit 405 and SLIC 450 may be a part[[y]] of, for example, the network gateway 12c of Figs. 1 and 2. During the operation of the exemplary network gateway device 12c of Fig. 1, a SLIC, such as SLIC 450 may generate a small but detectable amount of echo of the egress speech signals represented by egress speech data 420, in the ingress speech data 440. The egress speech data 420 may correspond to, for example, the PCM out signal 62 of Fig. 3, while the ingress speech data 440 may correspond to, for example, the PCM in signal 60 of Fig. 3. It is a function of the digital hybrid balance circuit 405 to remove from the ingress speech data 440 the portion of the speech signal of the egress data stream 410 that is leaked by the SLIC 450. In the illustration of Fig. 4, the digital hybrid balance circuit 405 comprises a finite impulse response (FIR) filter 470 and an adder 460. Because the total delay within the SLIC 450 is very short, the FIR filter 470 of the digital hybrid balance circuit 405 illustrated in Fig. 4 has only three taps. The FIR filter 470 comprises two unit-delay elements 474, 475, three gain stages 471, 472, 473 having gain coefficients a_0 , a_1 , and a_2 , and an adder 476. The FIR filter 470 receives at its input the digitized speech samples from the egress data stream 410 and produces at its output 465 filtered digitized speech samples that are passed to the negated input of adder 460. The egress data stream 410 may correspond to, for example, the PCM out signal 62. In the egress path, the SLIC 450 provides digital-to-analog conversion of the digitized speech signals that make up the egress data stream 410, and four-wire to two-wire conversion, coupling the resulting egress analog speech signal to the two-wire analog circuit 455.